

Watt (NC)
Weldon (FL)

Williams
Wise

Young (FL)
Zimmer

□ 1235

So the Journal was approved.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DICKEY. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 294. I was absent because of the malfunction of my beeper. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 294, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 294, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO OFFER AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3754, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997, NOTWITHSTANDING HOUSE RESOLUTION 473

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during consideration of H.R. 3754, pursuant to House Resolution 473, it may be in order at any time to consider the amendment offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] as though it were an amendment printed in House Report 104-663 and that the time for debate be limited to 10 minutes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. PACKARD: On page 32, at the end of line 17, add the following: (c) If it has been finally determined by a court or Federal agency that any person intentionally affixed a label bearing a "Made in America" inscription, or any inscription with the same meaning, to any product sold in or shipped to the United States that is not made in the United States, such person shall be ineligible to receive any contract or subcontract made with funds provided pursuant to this Act, pursuant to the debarment, suspension, and ineligibility procedures described in section 9.400 through 9.409 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I rise to inquire of the chairman if this is the amendment which the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT] discussed with me and with the gentleman before?

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. THORNTON. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is correct. This is a buy American amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. TRAFICANT].

Mr. THORNTON. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 3754, making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material and charts.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 473 and rule XXIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for consideration of the bill, H.R. 3754.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 3754) making appropriations for the legislative branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, with Mr. LINDER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD] and the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. THORNTON] each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California [Mr. PACKARD].

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This bill continues the program we began last year to right size the legislative branch of government. We are trying to become more efficient with a smaller work force and by using technology wherever possible as long as it helps to do our job better.

The bill cuts legislative spending for 1997 by \$37.4 million. That continues the tone set in the 1996 bill over the last 2-year period. The size of the legislative branch has been reduced by \$262 million over the last 2 years.

We have also reduced our work force by 1,753 jobs over the last 2-year period, 726 in this year's bill alone. That is a reduction of 6.8 percent of the entire legislative branch work force in a 2-year period.

The CBO has indicated through their calculations that, if the entire Federal budget were to be reduced in the same

proportion as this committee has reduced the legislative branch budget, we would have a \$100 billion surplus in our Federal budget and it would be balanced already. We would make a \$100 billion down payment on the national debt, if all other agencies and programs were cut the same level that we have cut ourselves. This is just based on a straightforward extrapolation, but it indicates, I think, the magnitude of the efforts that we have taken in reducing the size and the cost of the legislative branch of government.

In specifics, this bill will make permanent law the 90-day prohibition on mass mailing, unsolicited mass mailing before elections. The bill also will fund the CyberCongress, in other words, the computer and telecommunications and information services of Congress. We will be spending about \$211 million in this bill in that area. That is 12.5 percent of the entire legislative budget on this whole area of information and telecommunications and the CyberCongress.

Also, in this year's bill we are completing the downsizing of the General Accounting Office by 25 percent. That is a 2-year process, this being the final year of that process.

We have also converted the permanent edition of the bound CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, a 26-volume document, to CD ROM. That will expedite the research possibilities for Members of Congress and researchers in general, and it will also save about \$1 million a year. We are also converting the congressional serial set, a 60-volume document, to the CD ROM, the electronic information process. That, too, will save about \$1 million a year.

We are also outsourcing the custodial work at the Ford House Office Building. We are conducting studies to outsource our maintenance and operational work at the powerplant, the congressional powerplant. We are also looking to privatize the Government Printing Office plant more, and the Botanic Garden.

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We are also looking to further the public-private collaboration of the National Library Digital Program.

All in all we have made great strides in the right direction to bring about fiscal responsibility to the Congress of the United States and to those agencies that are here to support the Congress of the United States.

We also are funding the mandates in this bill; that is, the COLA's for staff, salary and the benefit packages for staff and Federal workers in the Congress. And that, I think, is a must.

We are also funding the 1997 inaugural ceremonies at the Capitol, the joint inaugural committee, which we must do every 4 years after the election of a new President.

All in all we are very proud of this bill; we think it moves in the right direction.

Last night today we will be hearing amendments, one of which is to cut